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1948 .

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D-10

Government of India.

Ministry of Home Affairs.

Public Sec.

Pros. Serial Nos.

RECE

Subject.

National Language.

Previous References.	Later References.

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S. 97 (Unbleached).
MFP—811 S&P—6862-A—(M-1161)—23-2-48—20,00,000.

(2)

Ministry of Home Affairs.
Public

Dy.No.7820/48-Public. S.No.1 p1/cor

Constituent Assembly may kindly see and advise us as to the nature of the reply to be sent to the Government of the United Provinces.

RAS
23.9.48

A.V.Raman
23.9.48

23/9
RAS(Ret)

Constituent Assembly

H.& H.A.(U) No.D.7820/48—Pub. dt. 24—9—48

C.A.Dy.No.4786/48-Cons.
28.9.48.

(Secty. of the Constituent Assembly of India).

The question of National Language is likely to be taken up by the Constituent Assembly at its ensuing session commencing on November 4, 1948, when it meets to consider the Draft Constitution of India.

Lucknow.
28/9.

28/9 V.S.

28/9

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
Date 24.9.48
Dy. No. 2483-Cons
File No.
OF INDIA

Ministry of Home Affairs:

C.A. (I)(c) No. D. 4786/48-Cons., dt. 28.9.1948.

Ministry of Home Affairs.
Public

The Government of the United Provinces may be informed as in the draft put up for approval.

RAS
4/10/48

A.V.Raman
6.10.48

6.10.48
RAS(Ret)

S.No.2 Issue

D.8237/48-Pub
1.10.48.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(3)

Serial No.3 ✓ ✓ f.3/Cor.

The question of National language is to be decided by the Constituent Assembly. A copy of the F.R. has been endorsed to the President, C.A., no action is, therefore, required on our part.

RAS
23.11.48

A V Raman
23.11.48

N.M
23/11

S.N.P.S.

S. No. 4 f4/cor

RAS
24/11

For information only. No need to show this to Cons. Assembly

RAS
1/12/48.

N. Mukerji 1/12

A.M
1/12

For us

RAS
1/12

Serial No.5 ff.5-10/Cor.

Acknowledge and put up.

Sd. A.V. Raman.

A draft acknowledgment is submitted. The papers are also put up.

RAS
6/12/48

N.M
7/12

f11/cor A V Raman
S.No. 6(Issued) 9.12.48

(4)

Ministry of Home Affairs.
Public

Dy.No.9791/48-Public. S.No.7 p12/Cor

May be acknowledged as in the draft submitted.

RAS
7.12.48.

A V Raman
10.12.48

N.M
7/12
Ust(Pb)

p14/C

S.No.8 Issue

S.No.9

For information only.

p.15/Cor.

RAS
4.2.49

A V Raman
5.2.49

N.M
4/2
Ust(Pb)

Serial No.10 p.18/Cor.

May be acknowledged as in the draft submitted.

No action.

RDS 5/2

RAS
28-2-49

A V Raman
4.3.49

N.M
2/3
Ust(Pb)

p19/Cor

S.No. 11 Issue

B

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(5)

CORRESPONDENCE

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S.No.1

(6)

All Communications to this Office should give the No., Date and Subject of any previous correspondence, and should note the department quoted

No. 6423(L)/XVIII-740(L)/47.

From

Shri A.D. Pande, P.C.S.,

Additional Deputy Secretary to Government,
United Provinces,

To

D.7820/48-P6
17.9.48.

The Government of India,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
New Delhi.

Dated Lucknow, September 8, 1948.

Subject

Labour Department

I am directed to say that the Provincial Government have under consideration certain matters affecting the administration of the Industrial Employment (Standing Order Act, 1946 (Act No. XX of 1946), decisions on which are to be taken in the light of the Government of India's decision about their official language. I am therefore to request that, if there is no objection, the Provincial Government may be informed if any decision has been taken in this matter by the Government of India.

Yours faithfully,

(A.D. PANDE).
ADDITIONAL DEPUTY SECRETARY.

No. 6423(L)(i)/XVIII-741(L)/47.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Labour, New Delhi for information.

By Order,

(A.D. PANDE).
ADDITIONAL DEPUTY SECRETARY.

P&UP—208 Genl—1948. 50,000.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S. No. 2

No.D.7820(823)/48-Public.
Government of India.
Ministry of Home Affairs.
New Delhi, the 5th October 1948.

To

The Additional Deputy Secretary to the
Government of the United Provinces,
Labour Department, Lucknow.

Subject:- National language.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No.6423(L)/XVIII-740(L)/47, dated the 8th September 1948, I am directed to say that the question of National Language is likely to be taken up by the Constituent Assembly at its ensuing session commencing on November 4, 1948, when it meets to consider the Draft Constitution of India.

Yours faithfully,

(U.S. P6)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S.No. 3

॥ ॐ ॥

SHRI SANATAN DHARAM SABHA,

SIMLA.

श्री सनातन धर्म्म सभा, शिमला।

All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary, Sanatan Dharam Sabha, Simla.

No. .....

Dated 9th November 1948.

D.9609/48—Pu
22—11—48

This Meeting of the Working Committee of the Sanatan Dharam Sabha, Simla, which met on the 17th November 1948 passed the following Resolution:-

"The Members of this Executive and the Institution feel the necessity of having one National Language and one national script for India and request the Constituent Assembly that it should pass a Resolution declaring Hindi and Devnagri as the National Language and Script respectively for the Indian Union, in its present Session."

Ram Kishan Khanna

Secretary,
Sanatan Dharam Sabha,
SIMLA.

Copies forwarded to:-

1. Hon'ble Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India.
2. Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister.
3. Hon'ble Dr.Rajinder Pershad, President, Constituent Assembly.
4. Hon'ble Dr.Gopi Chand Bharagava, Premier, East Punjab.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Memorandum Submitted

To

The Hon'ble President,
The Constituent Assembly
INDIAN UNION.

[Published and circulated by
the Secretary, Bangla Rastra Bhasa
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DEB PRINTING PRESS.
2 Madan Mohan Dntt Lane, Nimtolla, Calcutta.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Memorandum Submitted

To

The Hon'ble President,
The Constituent Assembly
INDIAN UNION.

Sir,

We beg to submit the following memorandum for your consideration and place the same before the Constituent Assembly for necessary action.

Mahatma Gandhi and other political leaders entertain the idea that India irrespective of caste, creed, religion, culture and language are one nation. The Indian National Congress worked under this idea and tried to infuse this sense of national unity into the minds of all Indians for the last 60 years.

But owing to the various Political and communal problems India has had to be divided. This division of India on the basis of religion is a virtual admission of the two-nation theory proposed by Mr. Jinnah.

The main factors that constitute nationality are geographical integrity, common political and economic

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

interests, language, religion and culture. No doubt for a united nation, a common language is required. But it cannot be denied that in India there exist various types and kinds of people, with their respective time-honoured customs, culture, language and literature. Mahatmaji and the present leaders of the Indian National Congress accepted the policy of redistributing the provinces on linguistic and cultural basis with an eminent provincial language as *Rashtrabhasha*. As India is made up of different provincial units each with its well-developed language, to impose one common language upon the people of a province, who already possess culture, literature and language of a very high order as vehicle for the expression of its thoughts and emotions in respect of the momentous issues that will come up for discussion in the National Assembly, is nothing but a form of imperialism which will in the long run deter the progress of the people.

The Constituent Assembly of the Indian Dominion should therefore refrain from adopting a single Rashtrabhasha for India and forcing it upon other provinces in respect of interprovincial conferences and proceedings of the Central Legislature. English for this purpose may be retained for a limited period, during which each provincial language should try its utmost to enrich its literatures with modern, up-to-date ideas and the vocabulary of economic and politics such as are expected to figure prominently in the proceedings of the National Assembly of a free and progressive nation. This will impart a healthy impulse to all provincial languages to

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enrich their stock of words and range of ideas. To that the final choice will be made on the test of merit [illegible]e and simple.

The claims of Hindi to be recognised as the Rashtra. bhasha in its present state of development do not compare favourably with those of Bengali. The question may therefore be left an open one for some time to come. In the meantime the use of Bengali, Hindi and a South Indian language for interprovincial and parliamentary discussion may be adopted.

If, however, it is decided to have a state language straight away, the claims of Bengali to be recognised as the state language deserve more careful consideration than has been hitherto bestowed upon the question. Bengali was the first among the Indian languages to give expression to the national urge of freedom and all the outstanding figures in Bengali literature devoted their great powers to instil a passionate love for independence among the cultured classes and to idealise the struggle for freedom so as to make it appeal to their highest feelings and aspirations. Bengali literature has given the most exalted expression to this yearning for freedom and some of the noblest and most inspiring utterances on this subject are embodied in the novels of Bamkimchandara and the lyrics of Rabindra nath. To recognise the claims of Bengali would thus not only be an act of bare justice; it would ensure that the flame of freedom would burn bright and undimmed in the future and the highest ideals would be kept in the conduct of public life.

The claims of a language to be raised to the status

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

of a state language do not rest upon the bare fact of its intelligibility to the largest section : they ought to rest on the more solid foundation of its inherent power to express the mind of the nation with the greatest dignity and persuasiveness in international councils. Judged by this test, the claims of Bengali stand highest of all the provincial languages. It can hold its own in competetion with the most advanced languages of the world. The employment of Bengali would advance the prestige of India before the bar of international opinion. Bengali has already been recognised as a subject of study in several Universities of Europe and America, a distinction which no other modern Indian language has been able to win. Rabindranath justly opined that a language can only claim to be a Rashtrabhasha on the merit of its high literature enriched by the contribution of poets, philosophers, litterateurs. The test of intelligibility to the largest number of people is hardly appropriate in this sphere. A great nation, such as India undoubtedly is, should have a language great enough to express its inmost ideals and aspirations.

Bengali has also the claim to be the mother-tongue of the largest number of people of India as a whole. It occupies the seventh place in the linguistic world. According to Grierson's linguistic survey, India has been divided into five groups of which the Eastern Group is the predominant, holding numerically the largest portion of all the groups. Bengali is the main language of this group. From this point of view also Bengali is the greatest language in India. It is easily understandable

by the people of all the quarters in India. It is found that Bengalee pilgrims are entertained with Bengali language by the 'Pandas' of Rameswar, Dwaraka, Brindaban, Pusker, Puri, etc. Bengali possesses a vast literature covering every aspect of human thought and learning and inspiring and helping the sister provincial languages in the path of progress. Bengali has been developing for a thousand years commencing from the age of 'Bduddha Dohas and Padabali Sahitya' and as an exponent of the 'Premadharma' of Sree Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, till the age of the lyrics of Rabindranath Tagore.

In deciding the questions it would be further borne in mind that even judging by the purely arithmetic test, the number of people speaking the language-though that by itself should not be a determining factor-Bengali has a claim stronger than other provincial language. It is to be earnestly hoped that the language which first enunciated the gospel of freedom in India, should not be denied its right of free expression in the new set-up.

In conclusion, Bengal expects that the dignity of Bengali language ahould be honoured by the people of other provinces and by the Constituent Assembly by according to it the position of one of the state languages to be recognised by the Indian Union.

2nd. January 1948. Yours faithfully.

Tarasankar Banerjee—Novelist, Calcutta.

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Jatindarmohan Bagchi—(Poet & Author),52/A Hindusthan Park
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——o——

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S. No. 4

(24) (4)

AKHIL BHARATIYA VIDYARTHI PARISHAD

(H. O. Delhi)

MADRAS BRANCH

Delhi 25/11

To
Sri Sardar Patel,
New Delhi.

Comm :-
131, Coral Merchant Street,
MADRAS-1.

Ref :- D. 9867/48-Pol 27/11

Dated. 13th Novr. 1948.

Dear Sir,

A meeting of the office-bearers of the Madras Branch of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad was held on 13th Novr. 1948 under the Presidentship of Sri S.S. Chandrasekharan of Teachers' College, Saidapet.

Sri K. Viswanathan B. Sc., of Madras Law College, moved the following resolution which was seconded by Sri Harbhagwan Arora of Loyola College. The resolution was unanimously passed.

"Sanskritised "HINDI" (in Devanagari Skript) should be the national language of Bharat Varsha".

S. Sampath Kumaran B.Sc.
Secretary.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S.No.5

Ack & Thanks ... 18/11

নিখিল ভারত বঙ্গভাষা প্রসার সমিতি

সভাপতি
ডাঃ শ্রীযুক্ত শ্যামাপ্রসাদ মুখোপাধ্যায়
সম্পাদক—শ্রীজ্যোতিষ চন্দ্র ঘোষ

২৪৬।১ আপার সার্কুলার রোড
সম্পাদকীয় কার্য্যালয়
৩৫।১০ পদ্মপুকুর রোড, কলিকাতা।

Ref. 1084:B

35/10, Puddapukur Road.
Calcutta. 20.
Dated. 15th November. '48.

From:
J. C. Ghose, Secretary,
Nikhil Bharat Banga-Bhasha
Prosar Samity.

D. 9607/48—86
22—01—48

Sir,

I beg to send herewith the copy of 4 Resolutions adopted in a Public Meeting held on 8.11.48 under the Presidentship of Sj. Promatha Nath Banerjee, the Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University, for your kind consideration and enactment in the constitution.

I am directed by the committe of Nikhil Bharat Banga Bhasha Prosar Samity, the President of which is Hon. Dr. S.P. Mookerjee to forward herewith a copy of Memorundum submitted to Hon. President, Constituent Assembly for your kind perusal and request you to place Bengali in the dignity of one of the State Languages to be used in Federal Parliament and in the Central Goverment's Offices along with English and Hindi. Extracts from a book regarding the principles of adopting several Major Languages for the state affairs, and also an article on the same subjects written by Dr. Sreekumar Banerjee M.A. P.H.D. Senior Professor of Calcutta University, are sent herewith.

I humbly request you to spare a little time to read about these very important issues. And I also pray to alinate ~~these~~ feelings of Bengali speaking peoples in advent of Free Constitution. Earnestly hope, realising the defficulties of Bengali people you will be good enough to extent your influence to save her Language from the pressure of Linguistic Imperialism.

An assurance humbly solicited. With deep regards.

P.T.O.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Yours faithfully,

Jyotish Chandra Ghose.

Secretary,

To

THE HON. SARDAR VALLABHBHAI J. PATEL,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, INDIA.
NEW DELHI.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(27)

1) The Bande-Mataram Song has been virtually used as a national anthem for the last seventy years, and innumerable patriots have suffered persecution and martyrdom under its inspiring influence. For this reason, Bande-Mataram is fit to be adopted as the National Anthem of Free India. This meeting therefore urges every member of the Constituent Assembly, irrespective of caste, creed, race and political affiliations to impart to this historic Song the status and dignity of the National Anthem.

2) In a free democratic state, linguistic freedom is a basic right of the people along with political freedom. As the adoption of more than one language as the state language in Soviet Russia, Switzerland and Canada has safeguarded this elementary right of the different linguistic unity forming the population of these countries, this meeting urges upon the members of the Constituent Assembly to follow this example and accord to the Bengali language an equality of status along with the other principal languages of the country by including them in the panel of state-languages. In consequences it urges the Assembly so to amend Sec. 99(1) as to invert the names of Bengali and other principal provincial languages in the list containing Hindi and English.

3) As it is an elementary right of a free people to receive its education through the medium of the mother-tongue, this meeting urges the Central and Provincial Governments to follow this principle by arranging to impart education to Bengali students domiciled in any part of the Indian Union through the Bengali language.

4) The partition of Bengal has resulted in the cultural and racial disintegration of the Bengalee people. This meeting earnestly requests the Governor-general to avert this disaster by including the Bengali-speaking people in Bihar, Assam and Orissa in a single homogenous state under Sec.93 of the 1935, Government of India Act. This meeting further urges that the constitution of provinces on a linguistic basis far from endangering national unity, as has been apprehended, will really strengthen it.

True Copy of the Resolutions passed in a crowded meeting held in the University Institute Hall, on 6-11-46. ST. P.N. BANERJI, THE VICE CHANCELLOR, CAL. UNIVERSITY - presided under the auspicious of :-

NIKHIL BHARAT BANGABHASA PROSAR SAMITY, CALCUTTA-20.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

A. B. C. OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

(28)

By Walter Heimer.

Page 220

SOVIET UNION (U.S.S.R.).

There are now 15 Federal Republics with similar constitution and governments, and they are subdivided into numerous autonomous national republics, autonomous territories and area with a view to secure home rule for each of 180 peoples speaking different languages inhabiting the Soviet Union.

The 15 principal languages of the Constituent Soviet Republics are equally official language of the UNION. In practice Russian occupies the dominant position.

Page 228

SWITZERLAND.

Switzerland (Swiss Confederation) 15,944 Sq. miles. Population 41,50,000 of 30,00000 speak German, 8,50,000 French, 2,50,000 Italian. All these three languages are equally national & official languages; in 1937 Romansch, spoken by 44,000 people in Canton of Graubuchden (Grisons) was declared fourth official language so as to emphasise the basic idea of Swiss Commonwealth, absolute equality of all racial groups regardless of their numerical strength. The harmonious relationship between the various races of Switzerland, which has no minority problem has often been praized as model of other racially mixed states as well as for a supernational organisation of Europe.

Page 45.

C A N A D A.

Canada is a federation of 9 provinces. Out of the Canddian population, 8 millions are Canadian born, 1.2 millions other British born, 3,50,000 hail from the U. S. A. The rest are foreign born as to discend 2.7 millions are of English, 1.3 millions Scotish, 1.2 millions of Irish, 3 millions French and 1.5 million of German stocks.

The French Canadians have preserved their French language and civilization. They live ~~xxxxxx~~ mostly in the province of Qubec. French is used officially along with English. There is a complete French Education System with three Universities.

Jeshor

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(21)

Nikhil Bharat Bangabhasha Prasar Samity urges the Constituent Assembly to incorporate the following Amendments in the Draft Constitution of India when it is presented to them for final adoption :-

(1) That the words 'or BENGALI', 'or a South Indian language' be placed after the words Hindi in page 44, para 99, clause (1), line 26.

(2) Omit the words 'Who can not adequately express himself in either language' in line 29 & 30 of the same page of the Draft Constitution of India.

(3) Omit the words 'or in Hindi' in page 83, para 184, clause (1), line 3.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

THE STATE LANGUAGE OF INDIA

Prof. SRI KUMAR BANERJEE, M.A., Ph.D.,
Calcutta University

THE Indian Parliament is already in session to discuss the draft Constitution. Among other things it will be called upon to settle a momentous issue in respect of the choice of the State language. This is no mere academic question but one fraught with practical consequences of a far-reaching character and immeasurable magnitude. The future of the literature and cultural life of many of the provinces depends on the right solution of this question. All provincial prejudices, narrow partisan outlook the spirit of unjust imposition and domination, the craze for monopoly and irrelevant questions, not concerned with the merit of the various languages, must be rigorously ruled out and a mature and unbiassed judgment must be brought to bear upon the decision of the problem. This is a last-moment appeal to our representatives in the Assembly to think and judge aright before they cast their vote in the matter.

I shall not refer here to the conflicting claims of Hindi and Hindustani, each of which is championed by mighty sponsors. The advocates of the latter invoke the sacred memory of Mahatmaji who backed up the claim of Hindusthani on the ground of its ease, simplicity and appeal to the Moslem element in our population. As against these merits there is a big set-off in respect of the predominantly foreign composition of its vocubulary, which makes it unintelligible to the vast majority of Indians. One of the simplest ways to decide the question would be to read Hindi and Hindusthani versions of identical sections of the constitution to the legislators, and leave the voting to be decided by their ability to follow either. On this basis the result of the voting should not long remain in suspense.

My plea in this article would be for a plurality of State languages and for a place to be given to Bengali, unquestionably the richest and most progressive of all provincial languages, in the list. We have no bias against the favourite language, which is already propagated as the 'Rastrabhasha', in anticipation of the verdict of the Legislature. But to accord to it a monopoly of pre eminence would be to err grievously against the canons of justice and statesmanship.

To divide the honour among a small number of progressive languages would be to disarm provincial jealousy and suspicion, ensure fair play and give that evidence of a largeness of vision which would lead from strength to strength and weld India into the coherence of a great nation.

A Painful Surprise

The suggestion is indeed so rational and modest that one is surprised to find it opposed and that with an acerbity of temper that seems strangely inappropriate to the occasion. And the surprise becomes painful when one finds that some prominent men of letters and educationists of Bengal have ranged themselves to cry down the claim of their own mother-tongue. No doubt, they take up the heroic pose of being above all provincial narrowness. They feign something of the stoic satisfaction of Brutus whose stern, impersonal justice condemned his own sons to death. The imitation is laudable indeed; my only objection is that it is grotesquely inapplicable to the present context. Two arguments are usually advanced against this claim of Bengali for inclusion in the panel of State languages. One is the disruption of national unity and the other is administrative inconvenience. Both of them merit a sifting examination.

As for the set-back to the cause of national unity, the objection is based upon a radical misconception of the nature of unity possible in a vast sub-continent like India, made-up of various provinces, each as big in area as a country of Europe, and each with its highly developed language and culture which is yet contained in a wider and more elastic integration. It must be clearly understood that Indian unity must be founded not on the suppression of the provincial merits but on the discovery of a wider and more liberal principle of synthesis. A federal state, such as India is intended to be, can only subsist on the free and voluntary association of the component units. To deny to any one of them its freedom of self-expression, to strike at its cultural growth in the interest of centrally imposed unity would be to strain the bond of federation. The result of such a course would be not to unify but to foster the seeds of disintegration, not to find closer but to encourage the centrifugal tendency. The very gesture to impose linguistic domination has generated a spirit of revolt in South India, which will grow stronger as the practical effects of such domination are increasingly felt and as the personal prestige of the present Congress leaders comes inevitably to lose something of its present glamour. The simmering forces of discontent, as yet below the surface, will break forth into open flames, which it will be more and more difficult to suppress. No far-sighted statesman, having at heart the real welfare of the country, would ignore the danger-signal which has been already hoisted in some parts of the country.

Examples Of Other Countries

History furnishes examples how this language-question has been settled in countries having a multi-linguistic composition of population and a lesson from history will not come amiss at this juncture. Soviet Russia, Canada and Switzerland are three of the most progressive countries of the world, maintaining a high standard of justice and efficiency in their internal administration. Their approach to the problem has been quite different from the policy proposed to be pursued here. Soviet Russia has accorded official recognition and a perfect equality of status to all the major fifteen languages spoken in her vast domain. That the unity of Russia has not suffered in the least by this generous policy has been demonstrated by the wonderful unanimity of spirit with which all her mixed population withstood the greatest aggression recorded in history. The multiplicity of languages did not in any way foster fissiparous tendencies. In Switzerland an equal status has been accorded to French, German and Italian languages spoken by the dieffrent peoples, inhabitating the country, irrespective of any statistical considerations. The result has been a fusion of races, a welding into a single homogenous unity, where the question of majority and minority has become completely a irrelevant issue. She has successfully kept out of two world wars, which would have been impossible, had not her population been of one mind. (Vide *A.B.C. in International Affairs*, p. 220, p. 228, p. 45). In Canada the army races living in the country and the many languages spoken have, not in any way weakened the unity of the State and French and English have been given a perfect equality of official status.

All these cases prove conclusively the fantastic unreality of the contention that one language is an indispensable condition for achieving national unity. The policy which has succeeded in the rest of the world should also do for India, which should not be encouraged to sail through uncharted seas just to emphasise her uniqueness. The real secret of harmonious fusion lies not in forcible imposition of linguistic unity, but in a policy of justice and generosity, fruitful in solid and tangible good brought to the door of the common man.

A Minor Factor

As for administrative inconvenience, this is surely a minor factor that should not outweigh graver considerations. If Russia, Canada and Switzerland have managed to overcome this difficulty, it should not prove insuperable to us. We had better to set ourselves to learn the process, instead of magnifying handicaps and paving the way for greater evils to come. The employment of a few more scribes, an additional secretarial staff, should not embarrass an administration which follows the British standard in the extravagant scales of pay it offers to its governors, its civil service and its ambassadorial staff. On the contrary, the difficulties to be encountered by the provincial governments in adjusting their syllabuses and courses of study in a regime of imposed linguistic unity are far more serious. They are already hard put to it to accommodate one more language into an ever-expanding syllabus, and how to prevent overloading the brains of young learners. The problem is more acute in the case of people of one province domiciled in another, as their children will be saddled with a second additional language, if they are to retain some touch with their mother-tongue and ancestral cutlure. This will eventually result in a serious disparity of chances between Hindi and non-Hindi speaking students, and will heavily load the dice against the latter. A Hindi-speaking boy will only have to learn three languages, whereas an Assamese domiliced in Bengal, will have to acquaint himself with five—a crushing pressure which may lead to intellectual suffocation.

Bengali's Position

Comparisons are always a thankless task; and it is because I want to avoid comparisons of relative merit that I am urging for not one but more State languages. But if against all canons of justice, the hegemony of one language is going to be forced upon us, we shall be compelled to register our protest against the implied superiority of the language whose claim is most vociferously canvassed. I hope, it will not be disputed that in a comparison of all provincial languages, Bengali easily takes the lead. Arguments are too patent to require specification. In richness of contents and range and variety of expressions, in respect of international and academic recognition, as well as in fostering the spirit of freedom and stimulating the national movement that has resulted in the attainment of independence, the record of Bengali language and literature is undoubtedly the brightest, and no legislator in a free India can afford to forget this signal service without being convicted of ingratitude. The principle that has been most frequently invoked in favour of a particular language is the extent of its vogue, the wide circle of its intelligibility. But while due importance is to be attached to the numbers that speak and understand a particular tongue, to make it the sole deciding factor is to sacrifice quality to quantity and to ignore the subtle and multiple demands that a state language will have to fulfil. Mere intelligibility to a large circle is certainly not the *sine quo non* for the elevation of a language to this seat of honour. In a modern world the most up-to-date ideas, the subtlest abstractions, the most delicate negotiations, the highest reach of dialectical power will have to be entrusted to the State language of a great country like India, which aspires to lead world opinion. May I ask in all humility, if either Hindi or Hindusthani possesses all the potentialities needed for such a complex function? Moreover, it will also have to interpret the soul of India, her inmost yearnings and aspirations, her highest achievements in the region of the spirit, her visions of beauty and perfection before the tribunal of international assemblies and should be a measure of her intellectual and spiritual greatness. I would urge every one of our legislators to bear in

Continued on page 10

on a bulletin board, illustrated the

THE STATE LANGUAGE OF INDIA

Continued From Page 9

mind all these considerations before he makes an irrevocable choice of the organ that will carry India's message to the world and fix her status in the judgment of foreigners.

Before concluding, I would briefly recapitulate the reasons which have been urged in favour of the recognition of Bengali as one of the State languages.

(1) India is too vast a country, and her provinces, with their own language and culture are too well-defined entities for only one language to serve her turn. Her diversity and size call for a more representative selection of languages which will guarantee freedom of expression and satisfaction of soul to all her constituent units. To ignore this basic urge on whatever grounds would be to rouse discontent and imperil that very unity in whose interest provincial aspirations are sought to be suppressed.

(2) Other countries of the world have solved this problem by admitting the major languages spoken in them to an equal official importance. In no case has national unity suffered thereby. To follow an opposite principle in India would be to repudiate the lessons of history.

(3) Administrative inconvenience should not be made a plea for denying an act of bare justice, so essential to the well-being and solidarity of the State. Moreover, having one language only would create complications in the provincial sphere and operate as a factor of unjust discrimination between one province and another.

(4) It would be very curious indeed and an evil augury for the future, if India begins her career as an independent nation by discounting merit in the choice of her State language. This initial blunder will vitiate all her future history.

(5) The services rendered by Bengali in the cause of national freedom as well as her inherent greatness which has won the spontaneous recognition of the world should not be lost sight of in estimating her claim.

I hope and trust that our representatives will rise to the height of their great responsibility in deciding this question and will admit no motives but those of the highest patriotism and statesmanship.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

enthusiasm about Pakistan. The Hyderabad debacle, I clearly felt, has been a disappointment to him and Kashmir still remains a hope.

"Ultimately" he observed rather naively, "Kashmir will come under Pakistan." I did not query how, for I simply wanted to get an inkling into his inner mind. I felt as well that he was the victim of a strange mental conflict so far as Pakistan was concerned. It has given the Muslims a charter of communal domination over the province, which means power for the limited few like him. But what is it really worth, if the province becomes denuded of the Hindu population?

Communal Bias

From what has been said before, one must not run away with the impression that there is nowhere any communal problem in East Bengal at present. It *does* exist in a varying form in different localities. Bad characters, whatever the number, there are in both the communities. But a few respectable Hindu gentlemen have told me that owing to the communal bias of at least a section of officialdom which now almost wholly consists of Muslims, goonda elements of that community are not always dealt with with requisite firmness. Of course, it has also been reported to me that there are just and strong officers too, and it would be unfair to tar all of them with the same brush. But unjust, communal-minded officers also do exist. Two pleaders practising in a sub-divisional court have told me in my village that when a complaint is lodged against some Muslim miscreants, it is found that sometimes the wheels of justice move very slowly, if they move at all. Not only that, I have also learnt on enquiry that if some public-spirited Hindu young men protest against such conduct of the defaulting officers or against imposition of heavy taxes in the name of contribution to the Jinnah Fund, then they make themselves the target of official ire and even revenge and are sought to be embarrassed in various indirect ways

Hindu Reaction

The Hindu localities, I found, presented mostly a deserted appearance—broadly speaking, about 80 p.c. of the 'bhadralok' class and about 30 to 40 p.c. of others having already left their hearths and homes. This, I am told, is more or less the story, if not all over the province, at least over a fair part of it. I enquired of some members of the 'bhadralok' class, "How do you feel now, don't you find Muslim attitude reassuring?" It seemed that they did not quite know their own minds. In varied language all of them practically spoke in the same strain. "Everything is quite now, we recognise, but if anything happens suddenly as a result of some event somewhere, we shall have then no way of escape". I could realise that this anything-may-happen sort of vague fear was still weighing heavily on their minds. "Besides", they measure of the progress of this scheme will be judged by the measure of your success."

A similar sentiment was expressed by Sri Gopinath Bordoloi, Premier of Assam in the course of a personal interview to one of the cadets when he said that it would be the sacred duty of the trained officers to inculcate the spirit of discipline in the students of schools and colleges, which, of late, has been particularly felt to be imperative. Let us hope that the N. C. C. officers would come up to their expectation and prove worthy of the charge so sacredly bestowed on them.

...gs from ...erature

WIT

NEY SMITH

and his imagination as brilliant as if he were irretrievably ruined. But when wit is combined with sense and information; when it is softened by benevolence, and restrained by strong principle; when it is in the hands of a man who can use it and despise it, who can be witty, and something much better than witty, who loves honour, justice, decency, good-nature, morality, and religion, ten thousand times better than wit;—wit is then a beautiful and delightful part of our nature.

There is no more interesting spectacle than to see the effects of wit upon the different characters of men; than to observe it expanding caution, relaxing dignity, unfreezing coldness, —teaching age and care, and pain to smile,—extorting reluctant gleams of pleasure from melancholy, and charming even the pangs of grief. It is pleasant to observe how it penetrates through the coldness and awkwardness of society, gradually bringing men nearer together, and, like the combined force of wine and oil, giving every man a glad heart and a shining countenance. Genuine and innocent wit like this is surely the flavour of the mind! Man could direct his ways by plain reason, and support his life by tasteless food; but God has given us wit, and flavour, and laughter, and perfumes, to enliven the days of man's pilgrimage, and to "charm his pained steps over the burning marle."—[From *Manual*].

NOTABLE INDIAN TRIALS: By S. C. Sarkar Published by M. C. Sarkar & Sons Ltd., 14, College Square, Calcutta. Price Rs 4|8|-

Sj. S. C. Sarkar has written some useful informative books. He has tried to satisfy his readers by publishing a book on notable Indian trials. The second edition of the book shows that his honest effort has been crowned with success

The author has rightly remarked in the preface of the book that the present generation has a very vague idea of the famous cases that have taken place in our life-time. Of the fourteen trials important political cases hold the majority. The book opens with the trial of Nirmal Kanto Roy and concludes with the famous I. N. A. trial.

Here readers will find the trial of N. K Roy—a trial packed with sensation from beginning to end. The Pakur Case—pro badly unique in the annals of crime—is a story bristling with problems of legal medico-legal and psychological interests Then comes Fullam Clark Murder Case—a unique story of criminal passion, base intrigue and diabolical murder. The Great Contempt Case (Surendranath Banerjea of "Bengalee") of 1883 and Patrika Contempt of Court Case will show a tincture of British administration. Meerut Conspiracy Case stands as a sensational Communist trial in India. Readers will find there in the murder of Abdul Kadir Bawla the fate of Maharaja Tukoji Rao Holkar of Indore who had to step down from his "gaddi" for a professional dancing girl. The Kakori Conspiracy Case, the first of the biggest political conspiracy case, of Upper India has been narrated in a very beautiful manner. Lahore Conspiracy Case and Alipore Bomb Case may be enjoyed by the readers. Story of Raja's lust—a story with all its grimness and bestialty—is shocking to all. The Sati Case is a pathetic case of a Sati from Behar where in 1928 Sampati Kuar, a girl of 20 years was cruelly murdered due to superstitious beliefs. Bhowal Case and lastly the I.N.A. trial stand even today as soul stirring stories.

The author has cleverly dealt with the cases. His language and mode of putting things have made this volume interesting to all classes of readers. The get-up of the book is nice and the printing is found to be fair.—K. D. 547|48

BOOK OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE (Thirteenth Edition): By S. C. Sarkar. Published by M. C. Sarkar & Sons Ltd., 14, College Square, Calcutta. Price. Rs 2|8|-

That the book under review has already gained immense popularity as a valuable informative publication has been proved by its thirteenth edition. The present volume has been thoroughly revised, enlarged and brought up-to-date. We commend this highly useful edition to our readers.—K. D. 548|48

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HE RECONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL EDUCATION by Abdul Hakim, M.A., (Cantab.), Published by Asadul Hakim and Amber Hakim—"Azim Villa", New Secretariat Road, P.O. Ramna, Dacca. Price Rs 4 only.

...makes ...

GANANAYAK: By Satinath Bhaduri, Bengal Publishers, 14, Bankim Chatterjee St., Calcutta. Price Rs 2|8|-.

This is a book of short stories from the pen of the author of 'Jagari', the book that by a single stroke has brought him in the foremost rank of modern Bengali litterateurs. Practically all the pieces in it are localised, like Arnold Bennet's Wessex tales, in a rather unfamiliar region on the border of Bengal and Bihar. The people there, a heterogenous mass with their respective actions and reactions, have a lot of interest for the Bengali readers which the author has fully utilised to his advantage. The geographical setting of the locality has also a charm which he has not failed to lap in his tales. As such the author has made the stories largely descriptive. But with his acute artistic sense, he knows as well that mere narrations, however, grippingly interesting, cannot make literature. So he has thrown human interest in between making that in tune with the physical setting of the place and habits and traditions of the people. An exacting literary test may detect slight redundrances in the tales, but these do not detract much from their intrinsic excellence.—B. S. 338|48

NATUN THIKANA: By Sachindranath Basu. Publishers—The Phoenix Press, 56, Bentink Street, Calcutta. Price Rs 3|-.

This Bengali novel poses no political or sociological problem but tells a simple and moving story. It is the story of one man and three women,—of how fate plays about with them. The characters are drawn with originality and understanding. Manimala is a pathetic essay on the psychology of madness. But the figure of Provabati stands out as a unique personality in the whole set-up. The barren but poetically beautiful land Udayachal where this drama is gradually unfolded, with its squalor and grandeur, its curious blend of old tradition and progress, is an interesting picture of a typical Rajput native State. The author who commands a simple and chaste style and has the gift of imagination, has the promise of a good writer.—B. N. 551|48

BANGLAR NABA JAGRITI: 1st Vol. (Background). By Binay Ghosh. International Publishing House Ltd. 30, Chowringhee Road, Calcutta. Pp. 208. Price Rs 4-8.

Since Amit Sen's tantalisingly brief 'Notes on Bengal Renaissance', interest in the history of 19th Century Bengal has taken a socio-economic turn, and the result has been fruitful to a degree. There is no lack of source materials to study the social and cultural background of Indian nationalism in its early phases. Orthodox surveys miss, however, the cause and connection of events and tendencies which crowd the vast canvas of national life under early British rule. The task of a social historian here is not merely to record but to interpret and integrate the apparently confusing medley of decay and new birth, of the timid resistance of outmoded systems and the vigorous pushing forward of new modes of life, daring currents of thought arising out of a collision between the commercial economy of the cities and the decaying feudal economy of the villages. A group of Bengali intellectuals have undertaken this task of interpreting the social and cultural history of Bengal under British rule, and Mr. Binay Ghosh is notable amongst them for his mastery of relevant facts and his vivid historical imagination. He reconstructs with great skill the anatomy and physiology of modern Bengal, its new class-formations and urban outlook. Mr. Ghosh weilds the weapon of materialist dialectics with surprising ease and flexibility. That is how his study of the new class formations, the rise of an urban culture and the revolution in thought has become as interesting as ... novel. But the lasting ... the ... ban ... past ... the ... past ... the ... day. ... not ... tion ... illu- ... 48 ... nore ... as

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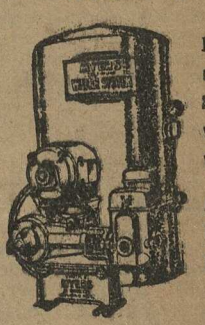
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(32)

No.F.51/401/48-Public.
Government of India.
Ministry of Home Affairs.
New Delhi, the 11th December 1948.

To

The Secretary,
Niknil Bharat Banga-Bhasha Prosar Samity,
35/10, Puddapukur Road, Calcutta 20.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No.1084-B, dated the 15th November 1948, ~~sending~~ forwarding a copy of the resolutions regarding State Languages, National Anthem etc.

Yours faithfully,

U.S.(Pb).

RECEIVED on 10/12 2321
Compared by ... N.S.
ISSUED On 11.12
R & I

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(33) S.No. 7

5324/48-PS
24-11-48

U.S. (Ow) 23/11
RDS 25/11

D. 9791/48—Pk
25—11—48

From
SRI BIJAY BIHARI MUKHARJI,
Secretary : Bangla Rastra Bhasa Prachar Bibhag
4, Gokhale Road,
Elgin Road, P.O.
CALCUTTA 20,
PHONE : Pk. 1644.

To Hon'ble Vallabhai Patel - 1st Deputy Premier, Dominion of India, New Delhi

Dear Sir,

We apologise for intruding upon your time on behalf of Bangla Rastra Bhasa Prachar Bibhag including the present and past students of the Calcutta University Association (Kalikata Viswa-Vidyalay Praktan-O-Bartaman Chatra-Chatri Samity, Calcutta).

2. The question of State Language is under discussion and on your decision will depend finally the choice. We should think that you will not consider it impertinence if I were to remind you with all respects and in all humility that your responsibility is grave and great.

3. The Association pleads for the acceptance of the Bengali, if not as the one, at least to be one of a number of languages to be classed as State Language. Lest you may have forgotten about it, we enclose herewith a copy of the Memorandum drawn up and circulated to you sometime ago. We trust you will find time to peruse and note the names and status of the signatories to the Memorandum.

4. We need hardly enter into further discussions to state the importance of and the justification for the acceptance of the Bengali. It is the most developed of the Provincial languages with a very rich literature in every subject—humanistic and scientific. Quite apart from its being the language of Bankim Chandra and Rabindra Nath—by themselves a unique recommendation—its store-house of literary performances, its already very rich vocabulory, its elastic assimilative power, its clear and easily intelligible grammar, its perfect spelling with rich series of alphabets and composition-compounds ought to ensure for it the status of the most suitable, progressive and developed of Provincial or Regional Languages. That the national anthem either of Bandemataram or of Jana-Gana-mana-adhinayak is the contribution of the Bengali Language is not an accident.

5. There is, as natural in the existing conditions of India, quite a confusion about the State Language and the need for a Lingua Franca of India. The State Language is the language in which the individuals can be permitted to address Legislatures and in which state communications are to be issued or made. India—the greatest of Modern states—naturally can't have to-day only one language for the purpose. The Soviet Union, Canada, Switzerland—much smaller country with infinitely smaller population—have more than one language declared and used as State Languages. India must have its more advanced Regional Languages accorded that status to contribute to the richness of India's Languistic wealth. To do otherwise is unscientific, impolitic, unfair and repressive, hence undemocratic. India must have to develop a common peoples' language—or Lingua Franca—to help in the intercommunication between Provinces. In Europe, language schools are a feature in each country. In India, language schools in each Province must be developed with enthusiasim and common approval—such language schools in each Province will develop that familiarity with the language and ideals of all Provinces in India which will build up that integrated India which all had dreamt about and still dream of. Neither the League of Nations in the past nor United Nations Assembly to-day insists on one language alone for its members.

6. We plead, on behalf of the Association, most earnestly, therefore, for the Bengali Language to be declared at least as one of the State Languages for India.

Thanking you very much,

Yours faithfully,
BIJAY BIHARI MUKHARJI
Bijay Bihari Mukharji

13th November, 1948.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S. No. 8

No.D.9791/48-Public.
Government of India.
Ministry of Home Affairs.
New Delhi, the 13th December 1948.

To

Sri Bijay Bihari Mukharji,
Secretary: Bangla Rastra Bhasa
Prachar Bibhag,
4, Gokhale Road, Elgin Road P.O.
Calcutta 20.

RECEIVED IN THE R. & I. (A)
On 11/12
Case No. 2397
Typed by V. Shah
Compared by

Dear Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 13th November 1948 regarding the State language.

Yours faithfully,

ar
U.S.(Pb).

ISSUED
On 13/12
for
INDIA

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S. No. 9

No. 6798/IX-181/1947.

From

Shri N.P. Chatterji, M.A.,
Under Secretary to Government,
United Provinces.

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Home,
New Delhi.

Dated Lucknow January 24, 1949.

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of resolution no. 21 dated September 29, 1948 passed by the District Board, Garhwal regarding the adoption of Hindi as State language of the Indian Union, for the information.

Yours faithfully,

(N.P. Chatterji),
Under Secretary.

Local Self-Government Department.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

KUMAUN DEPUTY COMMISSIONERSHIP.
No. 504/XXI-6, dated November 24, 1948.

F O R W A R D E D.

R.T. SHIVDASANI.

Deputy Commissioner,
In-charge Kumaun Division.

ATTESTED.

(G.B. Sanwal)
Office Superintendent,
Kumaun Divisional Office.

23/11

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

From

The President,
District Board, Garhwal.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Legislative Department,
United Provinces.

Through proper channel.

No. 1064/XXI-12 Dated Oct. 25, 1948.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith copy of Boards' Resolution no. 21, dated 29.9.48 togetherwith the original-Hindi resolution for favour of necessary action and transmitting the same to the Government of India.

Yours faithfully,

872/XXI-18 of 29/10/48

(S.S. BARATWAL)
Secretary,
For President,
District Board, Garhwal.

Enclo:-
As above.

Forwarded

Deputy Commissioner
Garhwal

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Copy of English rendering of Hindi resolution No. 21, passed by the Garhwal Dist. Board in its meeting held on 29.9.18. 17

.....

21. Read resolution of Shri Narendra Singh Bhandari , Member District Board that pure Hindi be declared as state language.

~~Resolved-th~~ The resolution was unanimously passed.

Copy of original Hindi resolution. 38

प्रस्ताव नं. २१. इस अवसर पर जर्मनी-भारत में राष्ट्रभाषा के प्रश्न को निर्णय होने जा रहा है, यह जिला बोर्ड अपनी यह दृढ़ आशा प्रकट करना अपना कर्तव्य समझता है कि विशुद्ध हिंदी ही हिन्द सिंध की राष्ट्रभाषा और देवनागरी लिपि ही उसकी राष्ट्रलिपि होने की अधिकारिणी है; क्यों कि वे सर्वथा उपयुक्त हैं और इन्हीं का प्रचार देश में सर्वत्र आवश्यक है।

यह भी निश्चय हुआ कि इस प्रस्ताव की प्रतियां विधानसभा तथा सरकार और विधान-निर्मात्री परिषद् की सेवा में समर्पित की जांय।

प्रस्तावक — नरेन्द्रसिंह भंडारी
ज.ब.बो.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Dy.903/49-Ll.
S.No.10 dtd.9/2
D 659 f Home

39

From

Swami Sidhanand,
"Agasthya Vilas",
Post.Kallai.
Calicut, Malabar.

To

Sri C.Rajagopalachari,
Governor General of India,
New Delhi.

Sir,

SUBJECT: A NEW ALPHABET WHICH MAY BE USED THROUGHOUT INDIA AND MORE PROFITABLY IN TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING.

It is admitted by all that India of our present day requires one common alphabet which may be used for all Indian languages. A script is proposed by me which has been worked out to minute details and the study of which is very simple. So even if the division of the country into linguistic areas materilaises, the bother of having a common script can be successfully solved by this.

Eventhough the Government may sponsor Hindustani as Official language, the question of script has yet to be decided finally either in favour of Hindi or Urdu. The script suggested by me may be used as the script for Hindustani itself as well as for all other Indian languages. There are many Indian languages for which typewriters are unknown and those which are known are so very difficult to be put into practice. So far as my knowledge goes no script of any language in India can be studied easily and simply as that of the one which I propose to suggest.

Therefore I desire to place these facts before the Government and in case the Government is serious in the matter I am prepared to place the whole matter before the Government and if need be I am prepared to cme over to New Delhi to explain the technique of these new script personally to all those who are interested in it.

A line in reply is awaited.

JAI HIND.

Swami Sidhanand
2-2-49

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S.M. 11

19

No.D.903/49-Public.
Government of India.
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.
New Delhi, the 5th March 1949.

To

Swami Sidhanand,
"Agasthya Vilas",
Post Kallai, Calicut, Malabar.

Subject: New Alphabet which may be used throughout India and more profitably in Typewriting and Printing.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 2nd February 1949 to His Excellency the Governor General of India, on the subject noted above.

Yours faithfully,

or

U.S.(Pb).

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA